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INFO RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0172

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FOR WHA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/21/2018
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SUBJECT: COLOMBIA DENIES MEDEVAC REQUEST

REF: SECSTATE 13050

1. (C) On February 12, Post delivered all points in reftel to MFA Director for U.S. and Canadian Affairs Patricia Cortes, who confirmed that the GOC's decision was with Vice Foreign Minister Camilo Reyes. Post followed up on three occasions to encourage the GOC to accept the U.S. request. On February 21, Cortes told us the GOC denied the request. Cortes said Reyes consulted the Colombian Ambassador to Cuba. Based on that conversation, the GOC is concerned providing medevac assistance could impact bilateral relations with Cuba at a delicate moment. Cuba has hosted GOC-ELN talks in the past, and the GOC has requested Cuban help in trying to lower tensions with Venezuela.
Brownfield